

Message Text

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EXDIS

E O 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)
SUBJ: PRESIDENTIAL VISIT: ARRIVAL AT TEMPELHOF

REFS: (A) USBERLIN 1420; (B) STATE 156688

1. RE-INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED REF B, WE CONTINUE TO FAVOR THE DEPLOYMENT OF ONE OR TWO BATTALIONS OF US AND US AIR FORCE TROOPS AT TEMPELHOF FOR THE PRESIDENT'S ARRIVAL, IF THE PRESIDENT CAN TAKE NOTE OF THEIR PRESENCE. BASICALLY, WE SHARE GOVERNING MAYOR STOBBE'S ASSESSMENT THAT HAVING THE PRESIDENT MEET WITH THE AMERICAN TROOPS CORESPONSIBLE WITH THE FRENCH AND BRITISH FOR ENSURING THE SECURITY OF BERLIN WILL HAVE MORE IMPACT THAN THE CUSTOMARY TRIPARTITE HONOR COMPANY. WE WOULD PROPOSE A SCENARIO IN WHICH THE PRESIDENT GREETES A WELCOMING LINE OF ABOUT TEN PERSONS (LED BY US COMMANDANT MAJOR GENERAL BENEDICT), FOLLOWED BY A SHORT ARRIVAL CEREMONY INVOLVING A MOUNTED REVIEW OF THE TROOPS. HE THEN PROCEEDS TO THE AIR LIFT MEMORIAL AND THE NEXT EVENT. (THE GREETING PARTY WOULD IN THE MEANTIME MAKE ITS WAY TO THE AIR LIFT MEMORIAL, EITHER BY FOOT THROUGH THE AIRPORT, OR IN A CAVALCADE WHICH COULD LEAVE THE RAMP AREA BY ONE OF THE GATES OPPOSITE FROM THAT USED BY THE PRESIDENT). IN CONJUNCTION WITH MILITARY OFFICERS HERE, CONFIDENTIAL

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WE CALCULATE THAT ONLY AN ADDITIONAL TWO MINUTES AT MOST WOULD BE INVOLVED IN DRIVING PAST ONE OR TWO U.S. BATTALIONS AS COMPARED TO WALKING PAST AN HONOR COMPANY.

2. THE ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL WOULD RESEMBLE CLOSELY THE GATOW ARRIVAL OF QUEEN ELIZABETH ON MAY 24. THIS WOULD INVOLVE HONOR COMPANIES OF ROUGHLY 90 SOLDIERS FROM EACH

OF THE THREE ALLIED FORCES IN BERLIN. THE PRESIDENT WOULD REVIEW THEM, ON FOOT, AFTER GREETING THE WELCOMING GROUP AND BEFORE ENTERING HIS CAR TO PROCEED TO THE AIR LIFT MEMORIAL. ONE ADVANTAGE OF THIS VARIANT IS THAT IT PROVIDES A CONSPICUOUS DEMONSTRATION OF THE ALLIED AS OPPOSED TO THE U.S. ROLE IN BERLIN. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT REGARD THIS LAST FEATURE AS CRITICAL: THE BRITISH AND FRENCH COMMANDANTS AND MINISTERS WILL FORM PART OF THE WELCOMING GROUP, AND WE PROPOSE THAT A SMALL, SYMBOLIC GROUP OF BRITISH AND FRENCH AIRMEN BE ON HAND FOR THE AIR LIFT MEMORIAL/GOLDEN BOOK CEREMONY.

3. WITH RESPECT TO THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY, WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THEY SHOULD-BE PERMITTED TO WITNESS THE PRESIDENT'S ARRIVAL IF THEY WISH. THE SENAT ESTIMATES THAT NO MORE THAN 5-6000 PERSONS CAN OCCUPY THE INNER AREA AROUND THE AIR LIFT MEMORIAL. IF THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY WERE INVITED TO THAT CEREMONY EN MASSE, THERE WOULD BE NO ROOM LEFT FOR THE 4,000 BERLINERS THAT THE SENAT WISHES TO INVITE. WE WOULD PREFER THEREFORE TO ALLOW MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY TO OCCUPY CORDONED-OFF SPACE AT THE ARRIVAL AS THE EASIEST MEANS OPEN TO US OF ENSURING THAT THEY WILL BE ABLE TO SEE THEIR PRESIDENT AND HIS FAMILY.

4. WE ARE THUS LEFT WITH THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:
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A. WOULD THE PRESIDENT BE WILLING TO DRIVE-PAST US TROOPS ASSEMBLED ON THE TARMAC AT TEMPELHOF? IF NOT, CAN WE PLAN ON THE HONOR COMPANIES AND START MAKING THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE BRITISH AND FRENCH?

B. WILL THE PRESIDENT MAKE AN ARRIVAL STATEMENT? (WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT AN ARRIVAL STATEMENT IS NOT ESSENTIAL GIVEN THE GOLDEN BOOK REMARKS THE PRESIDENT WILL BE MAKING SHORTLY THEREAFTER. HOWEVER, SHORT REMARKS TO THE HONOR GUARD AND/OR AMERICAN COMMUNITY WOULD BE APPROPRIATE AND DESIRABLE.)

C. CAN WE INVITE THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY TO BE ON HAND TO WITNESS THE ARRIVAL?

5. USCOB CONCURS.GEORGE

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